8. Grants to M.P.Is/D.M.P.Is/Welfare Centres.
9. Sports Grounds.
10. Holiday Homes.

WATER SUPPLY

1. Financial assistance to small mine owners for sinking of wells.
2. Financial assistance to small mine owners for execution of water supply scheme.
3. Financial assistance to big mines management for execution of water supply scheme.

Mineral Concessioins

2243. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not true taht the clearance of proposals from the State Government seeking Central Government's approval for grant of concessions for minerals specified in the part A and C of the First schedule appended to the MMRD act usually takes long time; and

(b) a list showoing number of cases, dates from which matters pending for Central Government's approval Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Develpmentd Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder by the State Governments concerned. Proposals for approval of mineral Concessions for minerals specified under the First Schedule of the aforesaid act originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of law. All efforts are being made to expedite approval of Central Government. In certain cases the proposals received from the State Government are inmcomplete and consequently, in such cases, State Government are asked to furnish complete information/addditional information for disposal.

362 cases were disposed in respect of part C of First Schedule of Mines & Minerals (Regulatioin & Development) Act during 1997-98. 128 cases in respect of part C of First Schedule of the Act are pending with Central Government as on 1.6.98. List showing pending cases for approval of Central Government for minerals listed in part A and part C of First Schedule of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 are appended at Statement-I and II respectively. (*See* below)

Statement-I

State	Pending Cases as on 1.6.1998
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	1
TOTAL:	2

Statement-II

State	Pending Cases as on 1.6.1998
Andhra Pradesh	19
Bihar	7
Gujarat	14
Himachal Pradesh	4
Karnataka	16
Madhya Pradesh	14
Orissa	26
Rajasthan	15
Tamil Nadu	11
Uttar Pradesh	2
TOTAL:	128

Uniform Rate of Royalty

2244. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the broad parameters laid by the Central Government for granting

licence for mining and prospecting mining in the country;

(b) whether Government have recently liberalised the conditions of licence;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that royalty on mining operations to the States differ from State to State; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Central Government propose to introduce uniform rate of royalty across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Prospecting licences or Mining leases can be granted to any person who is an Indian National or a Company as defined in Sec. 3(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 as per the provisions contained in Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 (MMR&D Act). The broad parameters as laid down in the Act are as under:

(i) For the minerals included in the First Schedule of the Act, prior approval of the Central Government is required before the prospecting licence/mining lease is granted as per proviso to Section 5(1) of the MMR&D Act.

(ii) As per Section 6(1) (a) of the MMR&D act, one or more prospecting licence covering a total area to the extent of 25 sq.km. could be granted for the whole country. As per Section 7(1) and (2) of the MMR&D Act, the period for which a prospecting licence is granted does not exceed 3 years with a provision for renewals provided that the total period for which it is granted does not exceed 5 years.

(iii) Similarily, as per Section 6(1)(b) of the MMR&D act, the maximum area a person can acquire for mining lease in respect of any mineral or prescribed group of associated minerals is 10 sq. km. in the whole country. Section 8 of the MMR&D Act provides that mining leases are granted for a minimum period of 20 years and maximum period of 30 years. Provisions exist for renewal of a mining lease for a further period or periods not exceeding 20 years in each case.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government on 30.10.96 issued guidelines for grant of large areas for prospecting licences for carrying out aerial prospecting. Prospecting licence (PL) can now be granted to cover an area upto 5000 sq. km. for a single PL for aerial prospecting with a ceiling of 10,000 sq. km. for the whole country for a single company, subject to certain conditions relating to relinquishment of area over three years and physical and expenditure commitments.

(d) and (e) Royalty rates on major minerals are fixed by the Central Government and the rates are uniform for all the States. Royalty rates on minor minerals are fixed by the respective State Governments and may differ from State to State.

बहुमूल्य रत्नों वाले क्षेत्रों की पहचान

2245. **श्री राम गोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईशदत्त यादव:

क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने ऐसे क्षेत्रों की पहचान की है जहां पर बहुमूल्य रत्नों के पाए जाने की संभावना है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे क्षेत्रों की संख्या तथा नाम क्या है और वे किस राज्य में स्थित है;

(ग) क्या सरकार संबंधित क्षेत्रों में रत्नों के खनन कार्य को शुरू करने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में अधिकारिक ब्यौरा क्या है?